

Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-49. Canceled

50. (Currently Amended) A seamless capsule comprising a polysaccharide gel membrane on the outer surface and optionally a coating on said gel membrane, wherein:

(i) said capsule encapsulates an emulsion comprising at least one oil, water and at least one emulsifier and said emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion,

(ii) said oil is present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of said emulsion,

(iii) said polysaccharide gel membrane is an ionic gel membrane comprising at least one of alginate, propylene glycol alginate or pectin and said at least one of alginate, propylene glycol alginate or pectin is a salt of calcium, strontium, barium or aluminum,

(iv) said capsule is oblong, oval, or cylindrical,

(v) said capsule is enteric or delayed release, and

(vi) said emulsion does not contain marmelo mucilage.

51. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein the capsule is dried.

52. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, having a wet capsule diameter in the range of 1 millimeter to 40 millimeters, wherein said gel membrane has a thickness in the range of 0.3 millimeters to 4 millimeters.

53. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said capsule is dried and said gel membrane is a dry polysaccharide gel film on the outer surface which constitutes up to 30% by weight of the dried seamless capsule.

54. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 53, wherein the dry polysaccharide gel film constitutes up to 10% by weight of the dried capsule.

55. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, having a dry capsule diameter in the range of 0.5 millimeter to 35 millimeters, wherein said dry polysaccharide gel film has a thickness in the range of 40 μm to 500 μm .

56-69. Cancelled

70. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane is an alginate gel membrane.

71. Cancelled

72. Cancelled

73. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said gel membrane further comprises one or more secondary film formers selected from cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate succinate, methyl cellulose phthalate, ethylhydroxycellulose phthalate, polyvinylacetatephthalate, polyvinylbutyrate acetate, vinyl acetate-maleic anhydride copolymer, styrene-maleic mono-ester copolymer, methyl acrylate-methacrylic acid copolymer, methacrylate-methacrylic acid-octyl acrylate copolymer, or mixtures thereof.

74-81. Cancelled

82. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said emulsion is dehydrated and keeps the structure of said emulsion.

83. Cancelled

84. Canceled

85. Canceled

86. Canceled

87. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said emulsion further comprises at least one component chosen from a pharmaceutical agent, a veterinary agent, a nutritional supplement, an agricultural agent, a cosmetic ingredient, a colorant, and a food.

88. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 87, wherein the at least one component is a pharmaceutical agent.

89-90. Cancelled.

91. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said oil is present in ~~an~~ said oil-in-water emulsion in an amount of from 70% by weight to 98% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

92. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 91, wherein said oil is present in said oil-in-water emulsion in an amount of from 85% by weight to 95% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

93. Canceled

94. Canceled

95. Cancelled

96. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said at least one ionic polysaccharide is an alginate having a weight-average molecular weight of from 20,000 Daltons to 500,000 Daltons.

97. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said at least one ionic polysaccharide comprises a mixture of: (i) an alginate having a weight-average

molecular weight of from 30,000 Daltons to 40,000 Daltons, and (ii) an alginate having a weight-average molecular weight of from 150,000 Daltons to 500,000 Daltons.

98. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 97, wherein said mixture of (i) and (ii) is in a ratio of from 0.1 to 20:1.

99. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 98, wherein said ratio is from 1 to 16:1.

100. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said ionic gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of at least 30%.

101. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of from 40% to 80%.

102. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 96 wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of from 50% to 90%.

103. (Withdrawn) The seamless capsule of claim 87, wherein the at least one component is a nutritional supplement.

104-109. Cancelled.

110. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said oil is a pharmaceutical agent, a nutritional supplement, a flavor oil, or a food.

111. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 110, wherein said oil is a pharmaceutical agent.

112. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said oil is a carrier for at least one oil soluble active material and said at least one oil soluble active material comprises a pharmaceutical agent, a nutritional, flavor, fragrance, or a food.

113. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said oil comprises at least one of fatty acids or esters.

114. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The seamless capsule of claims 50, wherein said oil is fish oil.

115-118. Cancelled

119. (Withdrawn) The seamless capsule of claim 110, wherein said oil is a nutritional supplement.

120. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 50, with the proviso that said emulsion does not contain a strengthening polymer.

121. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein said emulsion consists of said oil, water, emulsifier and optionally at least one of a pharmaceutical agent, veterinary agent, nutritional supplement, agricultural agent, food, cosmetic ingredient, excipient, cell lines,

microorganisms, probiotics, enzymes, dyes, colorants, pigments, plasticizers, preservatives, and antioxidants.